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by Garrison with conspiracy to commit burglary. He is also believed wanted by the district attorney for questioning in the assassination probe.

TOWNLEY yesterday called the charges against him "completely false" and "absurd." In a statement to newsmen after he posted his bond, Townley said:

"Mr. Garrison's accusations against me, like those against my colleague from NBC, Walter Sheridan, are completely false. I am honored to find myself in the distinguished company of a man like Mr Sheridan, who has established a national reputation for integrity as an investigator for the McClellan Rackets Committee, the Justice Department and now NBC news.

"This would be a minor—even a joking—matter if only the freedom of myself or Mr Sheridan were involved. The stakes, however, are much higher than that.

"The charges against Mr Sheridan last week and the charges against me here today are obviously part of the campaign to intimidate reporters everywhere who dare to question the methods of Mr Garrison, his assistants and his investigators.

"The use of this high office for such low purposes makes a mockery of the justice he is supposed to uphold. Our society has survived other attempts by politicians to silence criticism in the news media.

"UNFORTUNATELY, there is a lengthy tradition of that kind in Louisiana politics. I am confident that those who bear the heavy burden of reporting the truth—even if that truth hurts—will not be intimidated by this obvious attempt to silence criticisms.

"I am equally confident that these absurd charges will be proven groundless in any fair, impartial trial."

One of the star "informants" on NBC's show last month, John "The Baptist" Cancler, is also scheduled to appear before the grand jury today.